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Draft report

Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 4. Disarmament

1. At its 28th meeting, on 22 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the newly re-established Department for Disarmament Affairs, and for its reorganization to respond more effectively to its mandates. Note was taken of the general orientation of the programme of work. However, views were expressed that the narrative part of the section on disarmament did not accurately reflect the narrative of the programme budget for 1998–1999, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997. Furthermore, in some instances, the narrative was not in full compliance with the mandates contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998. Also, in one view, full support was expressed for the narrative part of the proposed budget section on disarmament.

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4. The view was expressed that the overview, programme of work and expected accomplishments sections did not fully comply with the mandate contained in the medium-term plan, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207, and that the Secretariat should comply with the approved mandates to facilitate the work of intergovernmental and expert bodies.

5. The view was expressed that the reference to exchange of information in paragraph 4.3 was also not in conformity with provisions of the medium-term plan. The Department is mandated to provide information on United Nations activities in disarmament not the exchange of information.

6. It was observed that the thrust of paragraph 4.13 was to assume a new role for the Department in creating new legal and political norms and a central role in the field of disarmament. Whereas this is the prerogative of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, the adherence to disarmament treaties was the sovereign right and prerogative of Member States, and the Secretariat had no role to perform in that regard.

7. Clarification was requested concerning the mandate of the activity proposed in paragraph 4.17 (c) (ii).

8. Views were expressed that the programme of work showed a certain imbalance; activities such as those related to biological and bacteriological weapons were overemphasized, while work in the field of nuclear weapons was not given the level of importance that it deserved. Appreciation was expressed for the importance given to the work in the area of conventional arms.

9. Support was given for the revitalization of the regional centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and appreciation was expressed for the efforts made by the Department to pursue regional solutions to regional problems. However, it was emphasized that efforts should be intensified to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the centres and to seek adequate levels of extrabudgetary resources to fund their operation.

10. It was observed that paragraph 4.17 (d) (ii) distorted the mandate in the medium-term plan, as the medium-term plan did not give the regional centres any mandate to promote wider adherence to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

11. It was pointed out that a number of recent developments might have a negative impact on the question of disarmament. Such developments included issues related to the development of missile defence systems and conventional weapons, the strengthening of military alliances and the militarization of outer space. Views were expressed that the work on disarmament should also address such issues.

12. The view was expressed that the mandate for the role of Department for Disarmament Affairs in illegitimate use of small arms needed clarification. How would the Department for Disarmament Affairs determine what was legitimate and what was illegitimate?

13. It was noted that the entire fascicle seemed to be obsessed with weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons include chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons deals with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction comprehensively and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction deals with biological weapons, negotiations for the strengthening of which are under way in Geneva. There has been no progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. Given this backdrop, the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the area of weapons of mass destruction was questioned.

14. The view was expressed that the branches established by the Department for Disarmament Affairs were not in conformity with the decision of the General Assembly in section III, paragraph 28 of its resolution 52/220, and the need for full compliance with Assembly resolutions and decisions was emphasized.

15. The inclusion of the paragraph on expected accomplishments for the biennium was welcomed, but views were expressed that further refinement was needed. In particular, it was questioned if some of the expected accomplishments, as formulated and proposed, could be effectively measured.

16. The role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and its subsidiary bodies, as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament was emphasized. In this context, the view was expressed that the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs should not result in a duplication of activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

17. The following modifications to the programme narrative of section 4 were proposed:

(a) Reference to activities related to the Disarmament Commission should be included;

(b) In the third sentence of paragraph 4.2, the words "the existence and" should be inserted before "the spread of weapons of mass destruction.";

(c) In paragraph 4.2, the third sentence should read:

"Following the end of cold war, the United Nations has been called upon to take up new challenges and tasks as a result of the growing threat from the existence of large stockpiles of nuclear weapons, proposals for ballistic missile defences and the weaponization of outer space, the lack of progress in the field of disarmament, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the development and use of advanced and sophisticated conventional arms";

(d) The last sentence of paragraph 4.2 should be deleted;

(e) In paragraph 4.3, the second sentence should be replaced with:

"It will address issues of negative developments in the international situation in the field of disarmament, in particular the expansion and strengthening of military alliances and the prospect of the weaponization of outer space. It will also address issues of development of missile defence systems and conventional disarmament, including sophisticated conventional weapons, small arms, light weapons and landmines, as well as practical disarmament measures.";

(f) In the first line of paragraph 4.3, the words "creating and" should be inserted before "promoting";

(g) At the end of the second sentence of paragraph 4.3, the words "in the post-conflict situation" should be added;

(h) Paragraph 4.3 should be redrafted as follows:

"In the coming biennium, the Department will continue to focus on nuclear disarmament. It will address the issues of the weaponization of outer space, the development of missile defences, conventional disarmament, including small arms, light weapons, landmines, advanced sophisticated weapons, as well as all practical disarmament measures in post-conflict situations. It will expand its outreach activities, including its databases, to ensure the provision of impartial, factual information on

the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions, and specialized non-governmental organizations.";

(i) In paragraph 4.4, the reference to the Security Council should be deleted;

(j) In the first sentence of paragraph 4.5, after the words "weapons of mass

(k) In paragraph 4.5, line 2, after the phrase "derived from the General Assembly in the areas of", the phrase "weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms" should be replaced by the words "disarmament and arms limitation, especially with regard to nuclear disarmament";

(l) In paragraph 4.11, all the text after the first sentence (ending with "and other militarily significant States") should be replaced by the following:

"In 1998, it decided to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It also recommended that they be re-established at the beginning of 1999. The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to make it conform to the new international political and security environment. It is also exploring ways and means of addressing the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Conference is expected to discuss a ban on the transfer of anti-personnel landmines to complement the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. It is also expected to continue its efforts in the promotion of transparency in armaments and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.";

(m) In paragraph 4.11, the following changes should be made:

(i) The second sentence should read:

"In 1998, the Conference on Disarmament decided to establish two ad hoc committees to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons";

(ii) The third and fourth sentences of the same paragraph should read:

"The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to make it conform to the new international political and security environment, so it is exploring ways and means of addressing the issue of nuclear weapons";

(iii) In the fifth sentence of the paragraph, the words "transfer of" before the words "anti-personnel landmines" should be deleted; and the words "to complement the recently concluded Ottawa Convention" should be deleted after the words "anti-personnel landmines";

(n) Paragraph 4.13 should be redrafted to read:

"During the biennium 2000–2001, the following objectives will be pursued: to provide organizational and substantive secretariat support at Geneva and substantive secretariat support at Headquarters to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and/or negotiations on disarmament issues; to promote expertise in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing

countries, and to foster a better understanding of the particular concerns of Member States in the field of international security and disarmament; to assist Member States and States parties in effectively implementing multilateral disarmament agreements; to monitor and analyse developments and trends with regard to weapons of mass destruction in all their aspects, including the questions relating to the weaponization of outer space and ballistic missile defence, and to develop a database accessible to all Member States, with a view to assisting the Secretary-General and Member States in identifying areas for which solutions and approaches are to be formulated; to assist Member States in developing and implementing projects of practical disarmament and to project the United Nations central role in curbing excessive small arms proliferation and illicit arms traffic; to monitor developments and trends with a view to strengthening the advisory capacity of the Department, including that of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, to strengthen the outreach programme and to promote the exchange of ideas between the United Nations and academic and research institutes; to facilitate the reporting of States parties to the Ottawa Convention with respect to article 7 (transparency measures) and the implementation of article 8 (facilitation and clarification of compliance); to coordinate disarmament activities and initiatives at the regional and subregional levels; and to provide impartial, factual information on disarmament matters to the Member States.";

(o) In paragraph 4.13, line 12, the word "greater" should be deleted before the word "transparency"; and the words "facilitation of" should be inserted before the words "wider participation";

(p) In paragraph 4.13:

(i) In the fourth objective (line 7), the words "fully and" should be added before the word "effectively", and (lines 8–9), the words "in particular nuclear disarmament" should be added after the words "in the field of weapons of mass destruction";

(ii) At the end of the fifth objective (line 12), after the word "formulated", the words "to promote and facilitate the exchange of information, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes among members of existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties" should be added;

(iii) In the sixth objective (line 12), the words "transparency in the field of conventional arms through" should be replaced by the words "transparency in armament through the expansion of the register to mass destruction weapons and small arms";

(q) In the third sentence of paragraph 4.15, the phrase "fought mostly with small arms" should be deleted;

(r) In paragraph 4.16, lines 7 and 8 should read:

"of Member States of new trends and developments on specific issues in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as missile defence systems; facilitation of participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the";

(s) In paragraph 4.16, line 10, the phrase "advanced and sophisticated conventional weapons," should be inserted after the words "illegitimate use of";

(t) In paragraph 4.16:

(i) In line 3, after the words "disarmament agreements", the words "promoting the full and effective implementation of all existing multilateral disarmament treaties and fostering their universality" should be added;

(ii) In line 6, after the words "weapons of mass destruction", the words "particularly nuclear weapons" should be inserted;

(iii) In line 7, after the words "mass destruction", the words "weapons, especially nuclear weapons" should be inserted;

(iv) In line 8, the words "Register of Conventional Arms" should be replaced by the words "arms register";

(v) In line 11, after the words "involvement of NGOs in promoting", the words "the international disarmament and arms control activities including" should be inserted;

(u) In paragraph 4.16, line 5, the word "negotiations" should be replaced by the words "negotiations/deliberations"; in line 6, after the phrase "weapons of mass destruction", the words "especially nuclear disarmament; provide assistance in the" should be inserted; in line 7, after the phrase "on specific issues in the field of", the words "mass destruction" should be replaced by "disarmament and the development of sophisticated and advanced conventional weapons";

(v) Paragraph 4.19 should be deleted;

(w) A new paragraph should be inserted, reading:

"The Committee noted the role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament";

(x) The Committee recommended that the programme narrative of section 4 should be revised in accordance with the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001;

(y) The Committee emphasized the role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and its subsidiary bodies, as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament;

(z) The Committee recognized that the role of the Secretariat was confined to servicing the negotiating bodies within the United Nations;

(aa) The Committee underlined that the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs should not result in a duplication of activities of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Conclusions and recommendation

18. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly carefully review the programme narrative for section 4.